

**IN THE CLAIMS:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

Claim 1 (*Currently Amended*) A vertical utensil holder, comprising:

at least one upright support rod; and

a plurality of receptacles adapted for receiving a utensil, the plurality of receptacles being mounted on the at least one support rod and spaced apart one above another and in vertical alignment defining a column of elevated receptacles;

wherein said at least one upright support rod consists of a single upright support rod having a bottom end, the vertical utensil holder further comprising a horizontally disposed base receptacle adapted for receiving a utensil, the base receptacle being attached to the bottom end of said support rod, said column of elevated receptacles being disposed above the base receptacle in vertical alignment therewith, and

wherein each said receptacle includes a concave depression defined on an upper surface thereof adapted for corresponding in shape to the contours of kitchen utensils.

Claims 2-11 (*Canceled*)

Claim 12 (*Currently Amended*) A vertical utensil holder, comprising:

at least one upright support rod;

a plurality of receptacles adapted for receiving a utensil, the plurality of receptacles being mounted on the at least one support rod one above another and in vertical alignment defining a column of elevated receptacles; and

at least one upright compartment mounted vertically alongside said column of elevated receptacles, the upright compartment having a vertically elongated hollow interior.

Claim 13 (*Previously Presented*) A vertical utensil holder, comprising:

at least one upright support rod; and

a plurality of receptacles adapted for receiving a utensil, the plurality of receptacles being mounted on the at least one support rod one above another and in vertical alignment defining a column of elevated receptacles;

wherein said at least one upright support rod comprises a plurality of upright support rods, the vertical utensil holder further comprising a plurality of receptacle tracks, each receptacle track having a pair of side rails and an end rail joined together to form a "U" guide, each of the rails having a lengthwise channel formed therein, each of said receptacles being a tray slidably disposed in one of said receptacle guides.

Claim 14 (*Original*) The vertical utensil holder according to claim 13, wherein each said receptacle tray is a generally flat, planar, rectangular member having linear side edges, each of said receptacle trays being slidably disposed in said guides, the side edges being slidably disposed in the channels defined by the side rails and end rails of said guides.

Claim 15 (*Original*) The vertical utensil holder according to claim 13, wherein each said receptacle tray has a depression defined in an upper surface thereof corresponding in shape to contours of a kitchen utensil.

Claim 16 (*Previously Presented*) A vertical utensil holder, comprising:

at least one upright support rod; and

a plurality of receptacles adapted for receiving a utensil, the plurality of receptacles being mounted on the at least one support rod one above another and in vertical alignment defining a column of elevated receptacles;

wherein each said at least one receptacle tray further comprises a hood covering at least part of each said receptacle.

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Claim 17 (*Currently Amended*) A vertical utensil holder, comprising:

at least one upright support rod; and

a plurality of receptacles adapted for receiving a utensil, the plurality of receptacles being mounted on the at least one support rod one above another and in vertical alignment defining a column of elevated receptacles;

wherein each said receptacle further comprises ~~a handle support~~ an elevated handle support defined on an upper surface thereof.

Claims 18- 20 (*Canceled*)